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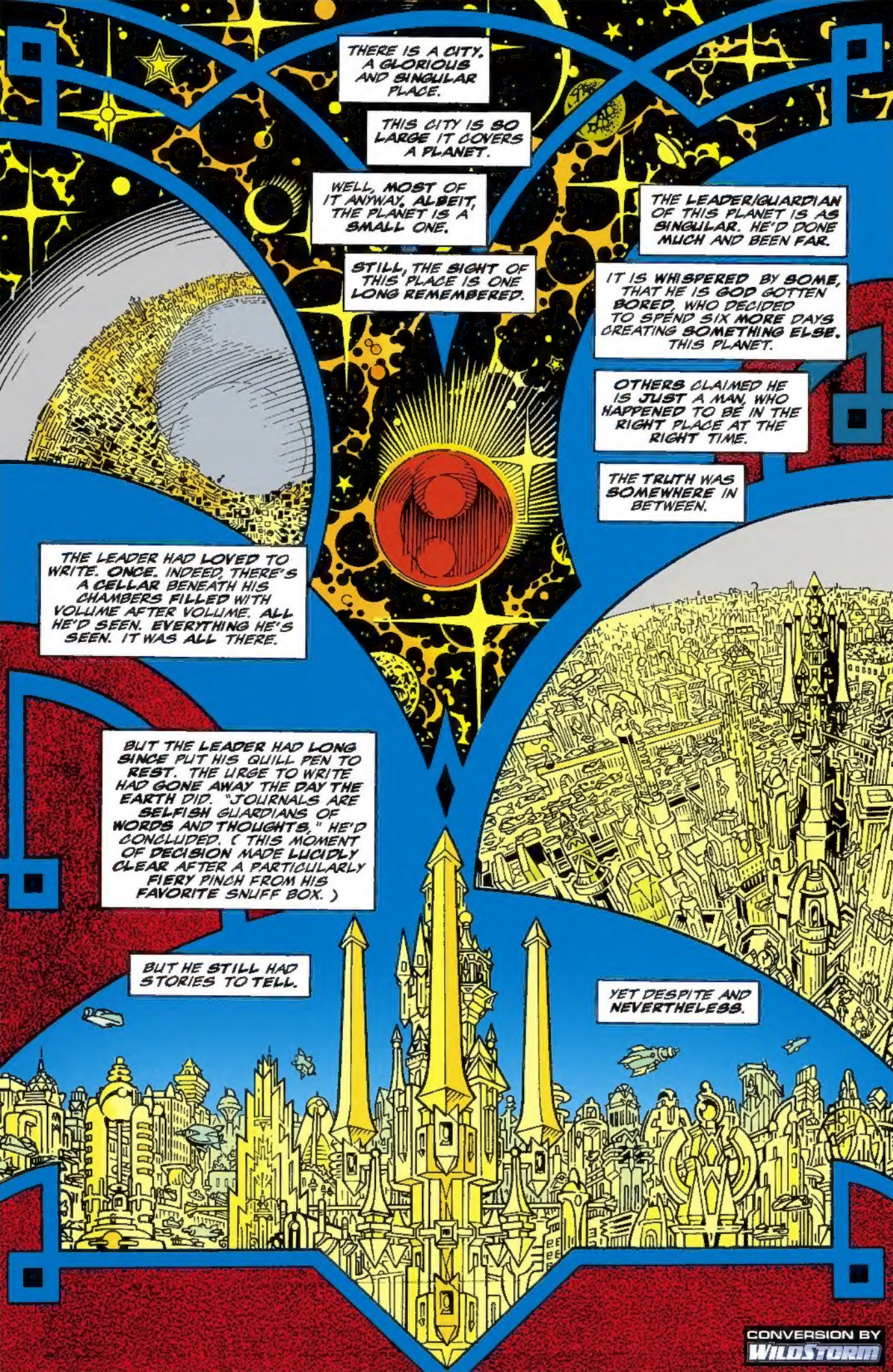
ROBINSON  
WILLIAMS III  
GREY  
BLEVINS  
HAMILTON  
SNYDER

# STARMAN



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THERE IS A CITY.  
A GLORIOUS  
AND SINGULAR  
PLACE.

THIS CITY IS SO  
LARGE IT COVERS  
A PLANET.

WELL, MOST OF  
IT ANYWAY, ALBEIT,  
THE PLANET IS A  
SMALL ONE.

STILL, THE SIGHT OF  
THIS PLACE IS ONE  
LONG REMEMBERED.

THE LEADER/GUARDIAN  
OF THIS PLANET IS AS  
SINGULAR. HE'D DONE  
MUCH AND BEEN FAR.

IT IS WHISPERED BY SOME,  
THAT HE IS GOD GOTTEN  
BORED, WHO DECIDED  
TO SPEND SIX MORE DAYS  
CREATING SOMETHING ELSE.  
THIS PLANET.

OTHERS CLAIMED HE  
IS JUST A MAN, WHO  
HAPPENED TO BE IN THE  
RIGHT PLACE AT THE  
RIGHT TIME.

THE TRUTH WAS  
SOMEWHERE IN  
BETWEEN.

THE LEADER HAD LOVED TO  
WRITE. ONCE, INDEED, THERE'S  
A CELLAR BENEATH HIS  
CHAMBERS FILLED WITH  
VOLUME AFTER VOLUME. ALL  
HE'D SEEN. EVERYTHING HE'S  
SEEN. IT WAS ALL THERE.

BUT THE LEADER HAD LONG  
SINCE PUT HIS QUILL PEN TO  
REST. THE URGE TO WRITE  
HAD GONE AWAY THE DAY THE  
EARTH DID. "JOURNALS ARE  
SELFISH GUARDIANS OF  
WORDS AND THOUGHTS," HE'D  
CONCLUDED. ( THIS MOMENT OF  
DECISION MADE LUCIDLY  
CLEAR AFTER A PARTICULARLY  
FIERY PINCH FROM HIS  
FAVORITE SNUFF BOX. )

BUT HE STILL HAD  
STORIES TO TELL.

YET DESPITE AND  
NEVERTHELESS.



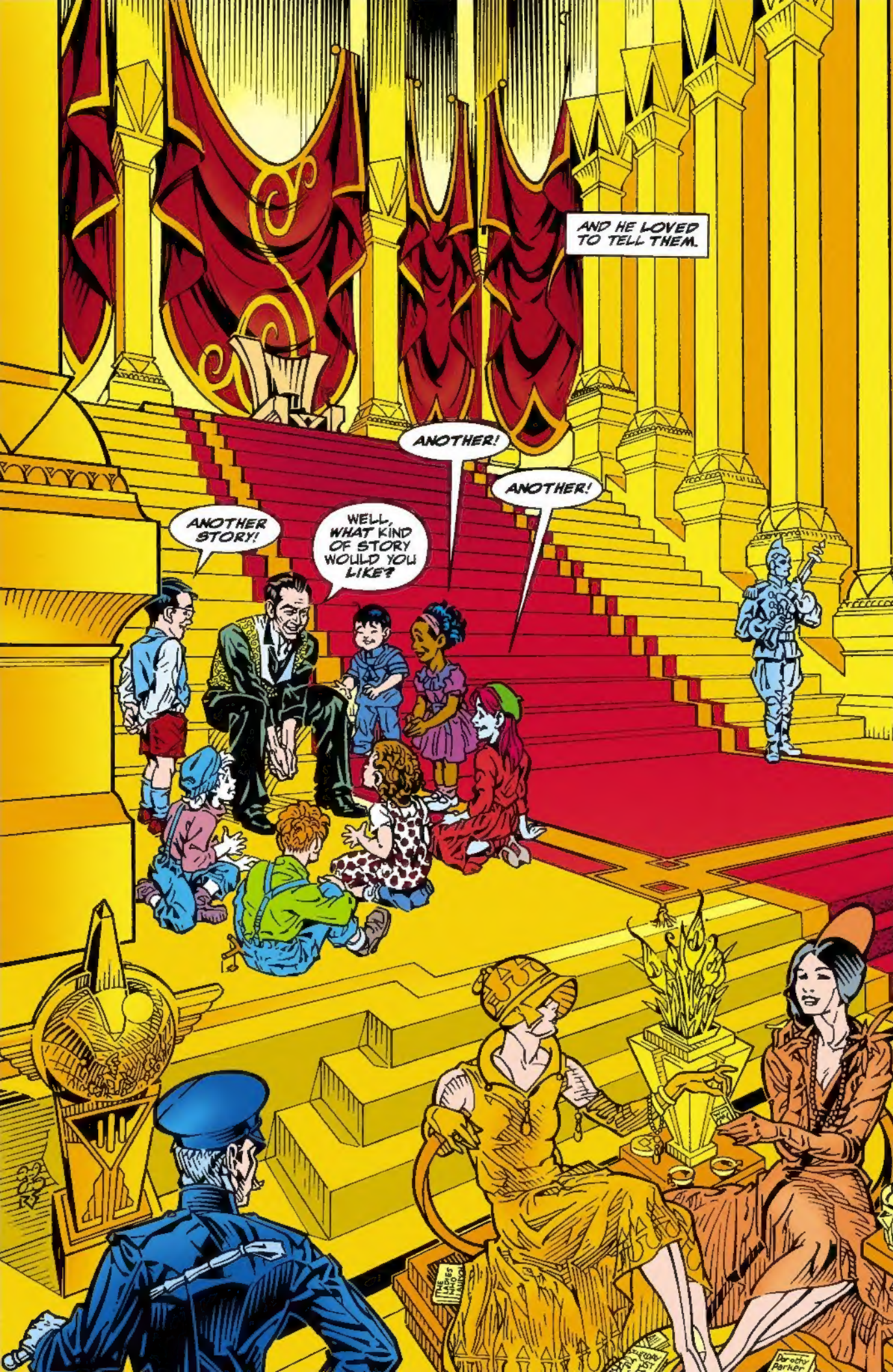
AND HE LOVED  
TO TELL THEM.

ANOTHER!

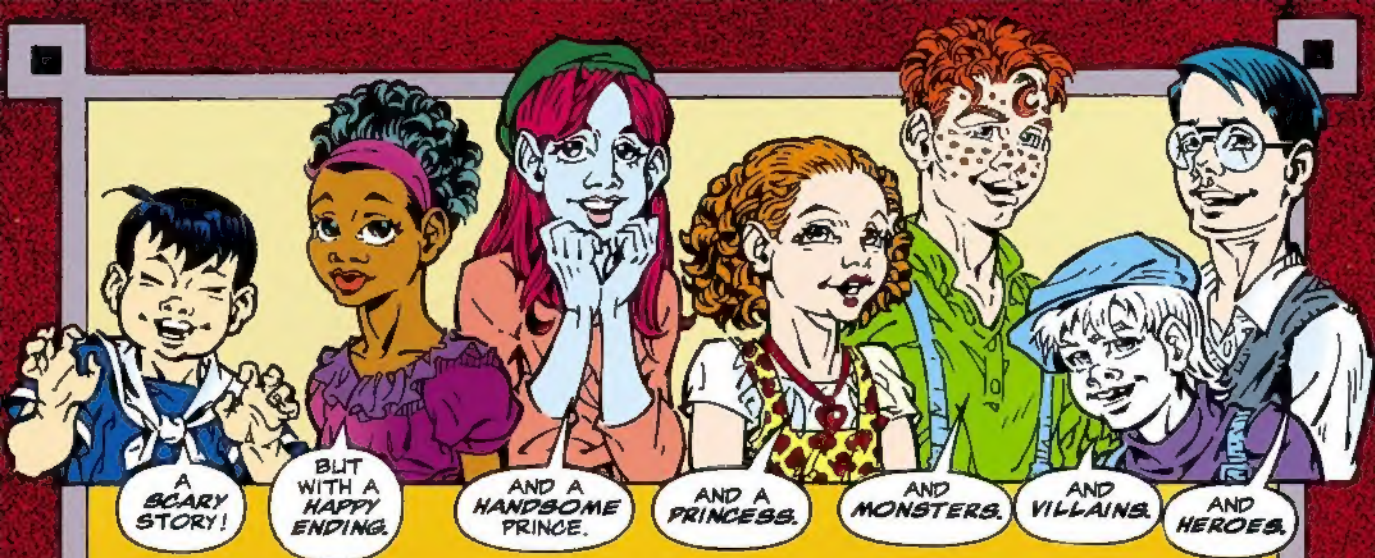
ANOTHER!

ANOTHER  
STORY!

WELL,  
WHAT KIND  
OF STORY  
WOULD YOU  
LIKE?







A SCARY STORY!

BUT WITH A HAPPY ENDING.

AND A HANDSOME PRINCE.

AND A PRINCESS.

AND MONSTERS.

AND VILLAINS.

AND HEROES.



THAT'S QUITE A MENU.

CAN I SUPPLY IT? HMMM. LET ME THINK.



I CAN GIVE YOU A TALE OF A HANDSOME PRINCE AND HIS LADY FAIR, AND THEIR KINGDOM, AND HOW HE RISKED ALL FOR HIS PEOPLE, HOW HE WAS A HERO, A TRUE HERO. AND HOW HIS PRINCESS WEPT FOR HIM.



IS THERE A HAPPY ENDING?

NO, I'M AFRAID NOT.

WOULD YOU RATHER I TOLD YOU SOMETHING DIFFERENT?



NO.

NO.

SHE'S A BABY!

TELL US THIS TALE.

SHE ALWAYS WANTS HAPPY ENDINGS.



ALL RIGHT, THEN, ON THE PLANET--



NO! YOU HAVE TO START IT PROPERLY OR IT'S NOT A STORY.

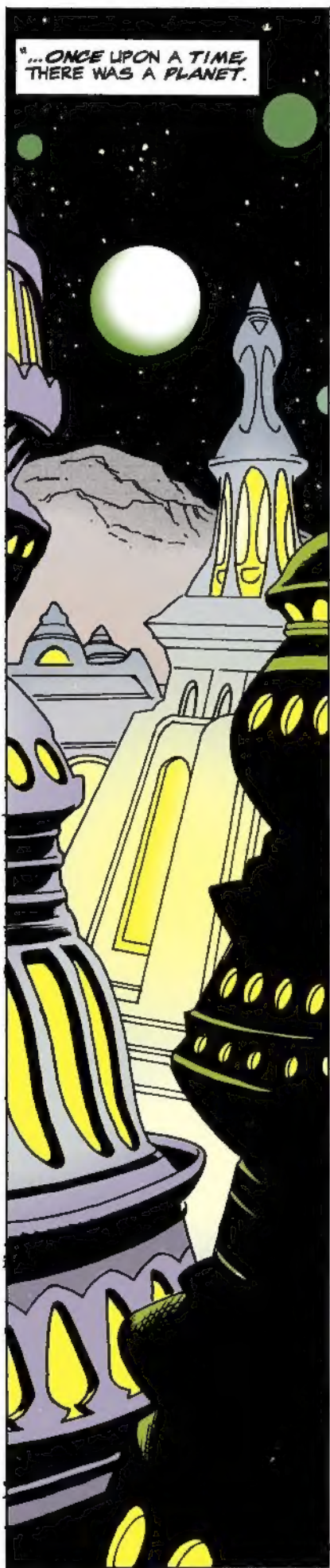
PROPERLY? OH, YES, HOW...ERR...INAPPROPRIATE OF ME.



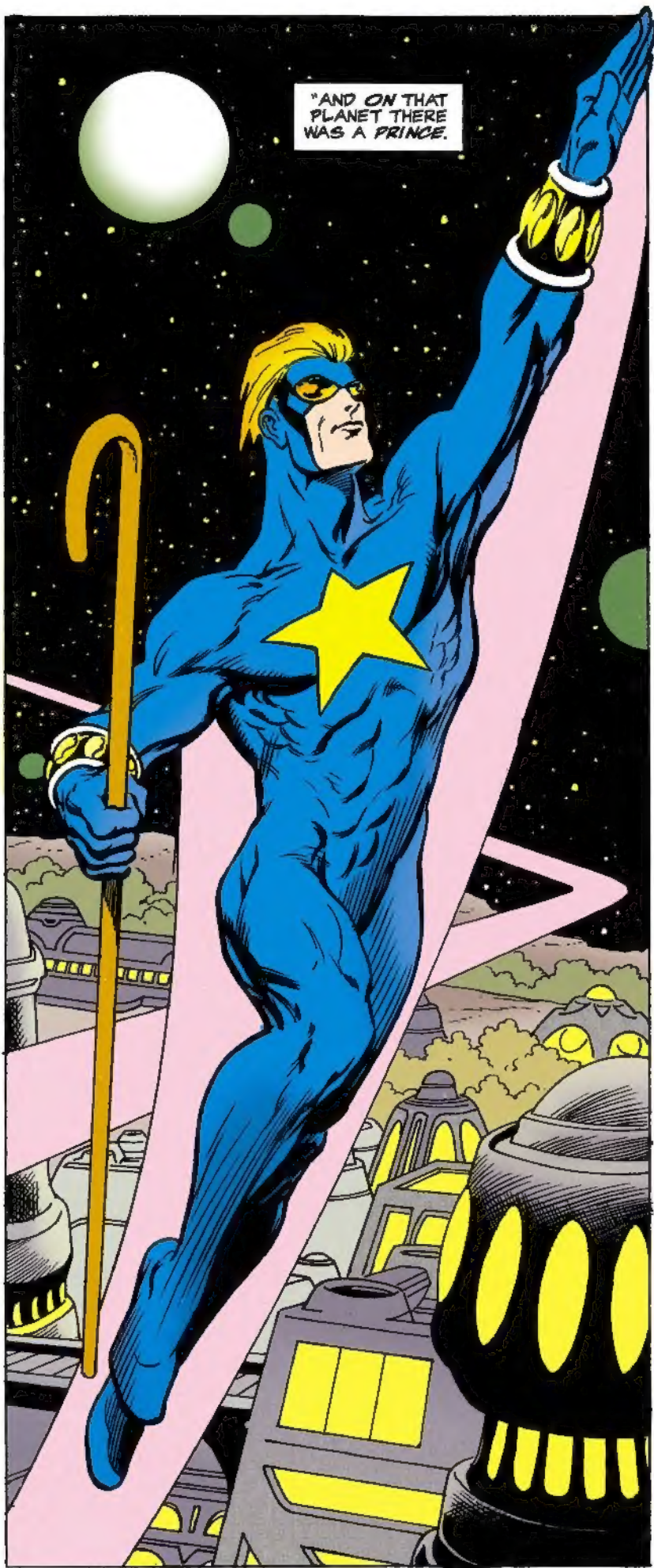
SO...



"...ONCE UPON A TIME,  
THERE WAS A PLANET.



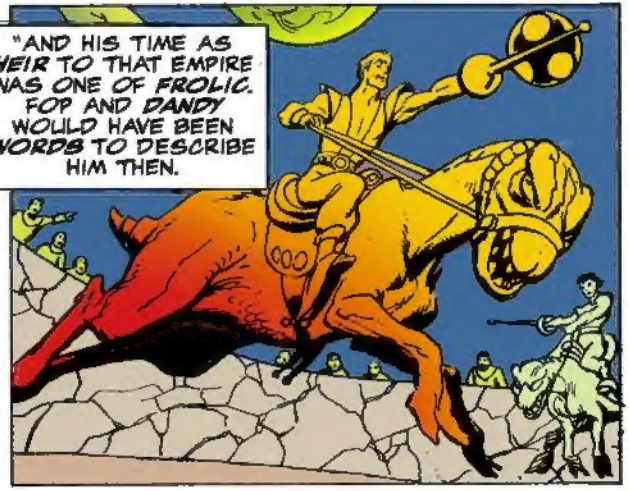
"AND ON THAT  
PLANET THERE  
WAS A PRINCE.







"HIS HAD BEEN THE CAPITAL PLANET OF AN EMPIRE OF SOME TWENTY-FOUR INHABITED ORBS.



"AND HIS TIME AS HEIR TO THAT EMPIRE WAS ONE OF FROLIC. FOP AND DANDY WOULD HAVE BEEN WORDS TO DESCRIBE HIM THEN.

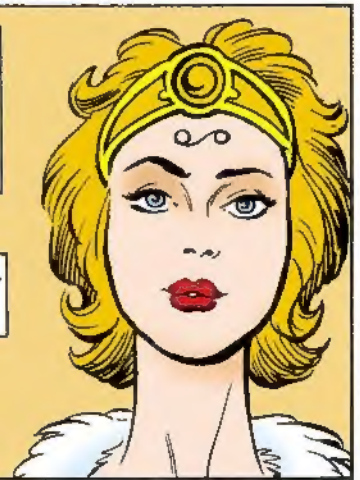
"IT WAS LAW THAT UPON THE DEATH OF THE EMPEROR, ONE HEIR WAS SELECTED AND ALL WHO MIGHT LAY CLAIM TO THE THRONE AND THEREBY CAUSE UNREST, BE CROWNED.

"VAIN, STUPID GAVYN ASSUMED HE WOULD BE HEIR, AND WOULD AMEND THE LAW SO HIS SISTER WOULD BE SAFE.



"BUT HIS SISTER WAS ELECTED. SILLY LITTLE THING THAT SHE WAS. GREEDY FOR THE POWER THAT WAS HERB.

"FEARING CHANGE, SHE UPHELD THE LAW.

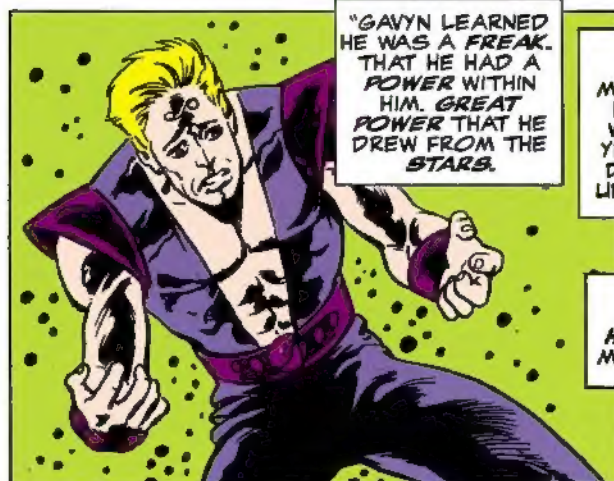


"GAVYN WAS THROWN INTO SPACE.

"HE DIED...

"FOR AN INSTANT.

"BEFORE THE BEING WHO WOULD BE HIS MAGE, MNTORR BY NAME, RETRIEVED HIM FROM THE VOID.



"GAVYN LEARNED HE WAS A FREAK. THAT HE HAD A POWER WITHIN HIM. GREAT POWER THAT HE DREW FROM THE STARS.

"IT'S A COINCIDENCE MNTORR SOUNDS LIKE THE EARTH WORD MENTOR, YET THIS FELLOW DID INDEED LIVE UP TO THAT NAME.

"HE TRAINED GAVYN. HARDENED HIM. MADE HIM WISE.





"HIS MATERIAL GIFT TO GAVYN WAS A PAIR OF BRACELETS. THESE HARNESSSED AND CHANNELLED GAVYN'S POWER. MADE IT A FORCE."



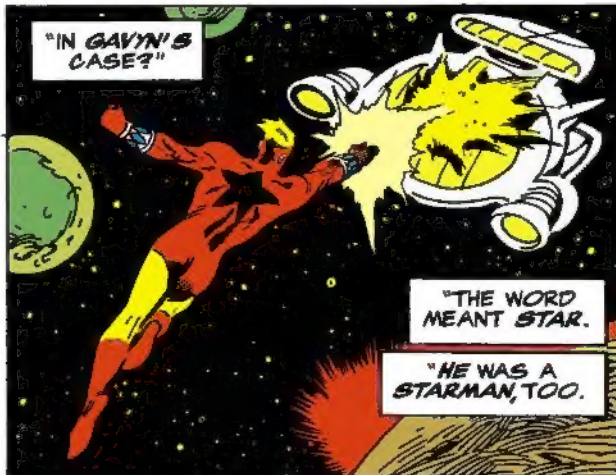
"HE BECAME A HERO."



"TO EARTH EARS AND TO THE EARS OF YOU HERE, HIS HEROIC ALIAS WOULD HAVE SOUNDED LIKE NE BRAK.'NE' TRANSLATES AS 'MAN OF'. 'BRAK' TRANSLATES AS MANY THINGS. ALL ENERGY IN THE EMPIRE WAS SOLAR-DERIVED. BRAK MEANT POWER, LIFE, LIGHT, HEAT. ALL DEPENDING HOW THE WORD WAS USED."



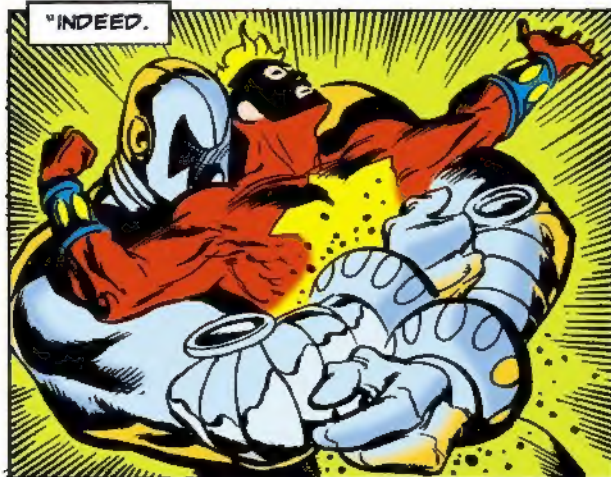
"IN GAVYN'S CASE?"



"THE WORD MEANT STAR."

"HE WAS A STARMAN, TOO."

"INDEED."



"MASKED TO HIDE THE FACT THAT HE STILL LIVED, GAVYN PRESERVED HIS SISTER'S EMPIRE."



"PROTECTING THE INNOCENT."

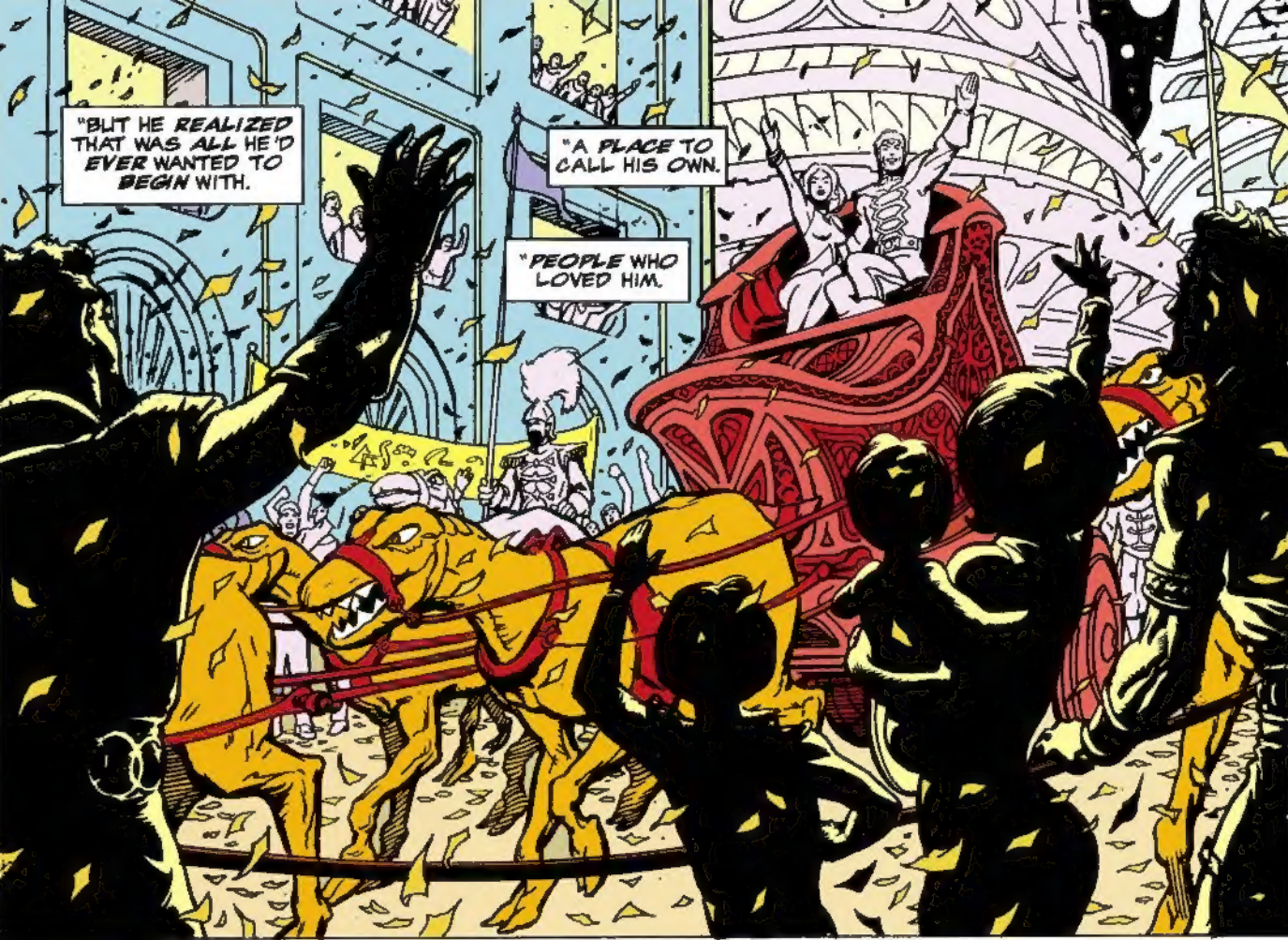
"PUNISHING THE GUILTY, DYING AGAIN TO DEFEAT HIS ARCH-FOE, YET RISING FORTH A SECOND TIME."



"AND WHEN HIS SISTER WAS KILLED, HE AVENGED HER DEATH. IN THE PROCESS DISSOLVING THE EMPIRE THAT WAS NOW HIS BY RIGHT, AND LEAVING HIM WITH JUST ONE PLANET."



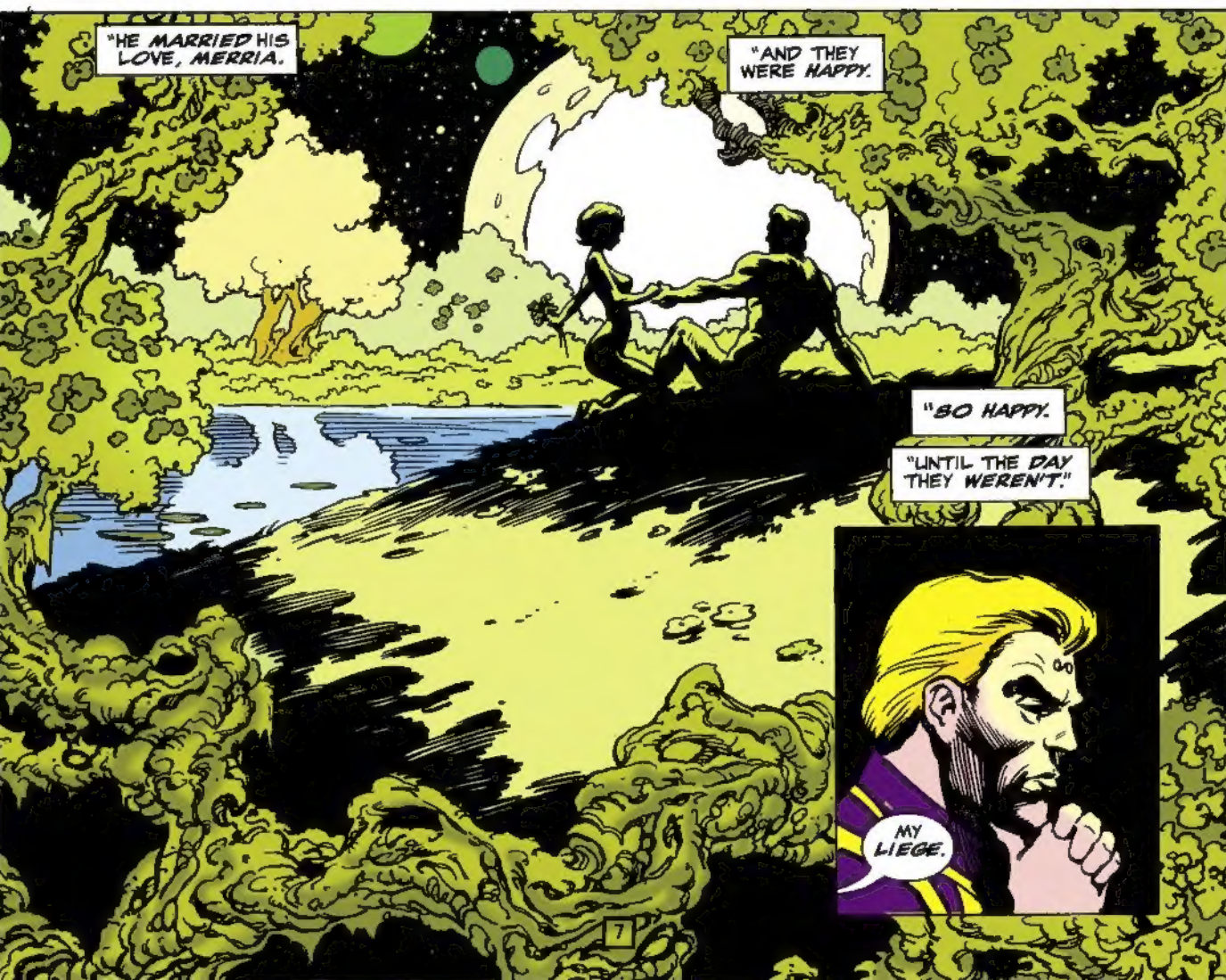




"BUT HE REALIZED  
THAT WAS ALL HE'D  
EVER WANTED TO  
BEGIN WITH.

"A PLACE TO  
CALL HIS OWN.

"PEOPLE WHO  
LOVED HIM.



"HE MARRIED HIS  
LOVE, MERRIA.

"AND THEY  
WERE HAPPY.

"SO HAPPY.

"UNTIL THE DAY  
THEY WEREN'T."



MY  
LIEGE.







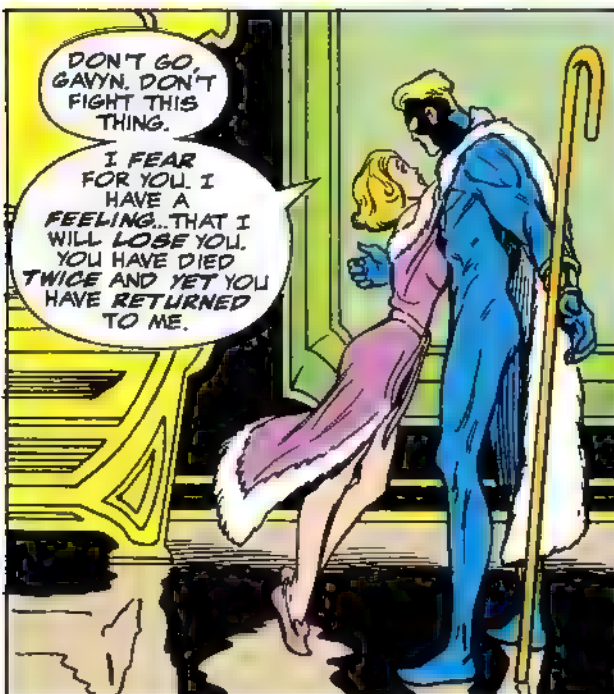
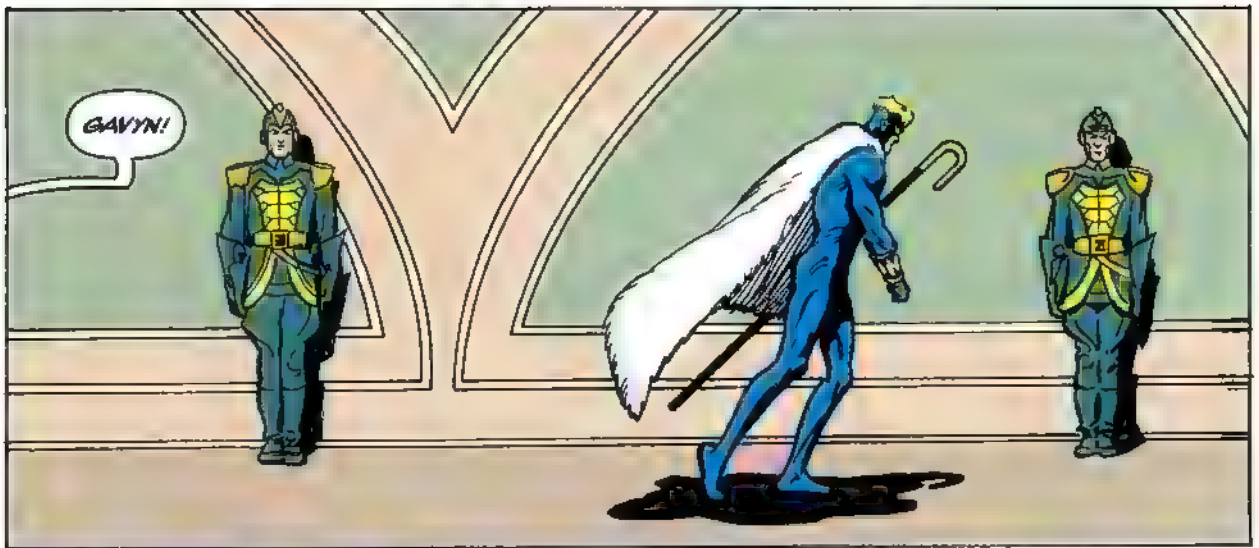




BUT  
IT SEEMS  
THAT WILL  
NEVER BE.











WHAT  
WOULD YOU  
HAVE ME  
DO?

JEDIAH  
HAS A CRAFT  
READY. WE  
COULD FLEE.  
WE MIGHT  
YET OUTFRIN  
IT.



WHAT OF OUR  
PEOPLE? CAN THEY  
OUTRUN IT TOO?  
CAN THEY ALL FIT  
ABOARD THE  
CRAFT? PERHAPS  
WE MIGHT TAKE  
THEM WITH  
US?



I'M SORRY. IF MY  
WORDS STING, IT  
IS ONLY THAT  
TIME IS A LUXURY  
EVEN OUR ROYAL  
EXISTENCE  
CANNOT  
AFFORD THIS  
DAY.

BUT  
BELIEVE  
ME THAT  
I LOVE  
YOU.



ALL THAT IS GOOD  
IN ME, HAS BEEN  
BROUGHT ABOUT BY  
YOU BEING IN MY LIFE.  
ALL THAT IS GOOD  
IS DUE TO YOU.

I WAS ONCE  
A ROYAL COURT  
OAF. A WEAK  
CHINNED JOKE. I  
BECAME A MAN,  
THROUGH MY  
STRIVING TO BE  
WITH YOU THROUGH  
ALL THE TRAVAILS  
WE ENDURED IN THE  
PAST. AND WHEN I  
AM WITH YOU, I  
STRIVE STILL, TO  
BE WORTHY OF  
YOUR GRACE.



MY HEART  
HAS HURT, TOO.  
EVERYDAY IT HURTS,  
SO FULL IS IT  
WITH FEELING FOR  
YOU.













"I WONDER  
WHAT HE  
WAS LIKE.

"THE ONE  
STARMAN I  
NEVER  
ENCOUNTERED.  
WHETHER HE  
WAS BRASH OR  
VAIN OR SAGE  
OR SAD.



"THOUGH IN THE END  
IT MATTERS NOT.

"HE WAS A HERO.

"HE COULD HAVE  
FLED, AS  
ROYALTY HAS A  
HABIT IN DIRE  
TIMES.



"INSTEAD HE  
FACED THIS PERIL.

"FOR HIS  
PEOPLE.



"THAT'S WHAT  
MATTERS IN THE  
END.



"HE USED ALL THE  
POWER WITHIN HIM. ALL  
HE COULD SUMMON."



"HE TRIED."



"TRIED."







"BUT ALL  
FOR NAUGHT.

"AND IN A  
BLINK...



"...HE WAS  
NO MORE.



"THE ANTIMATTER  
VANISHED WITHIN  
MOMENTS OF THIS.

"THE ARIAS OF HIS  
PLANET SING LOUD OF  
PRINCE GAVYN'S  
SACRIFICE...ALLOWING  
HIMSELF TO BE  
CONSUMED BY THE  
ENERGY SO HE MIGHT  
VANQUISH IT FROM  
WITHIN.

"THEY WOULD NEVER  
KNOW THE TRUTH.

"THAT THERE WERE HEROES  
IN A DISTANT PLACE  
FIGHTING THE SAME BATTLE.

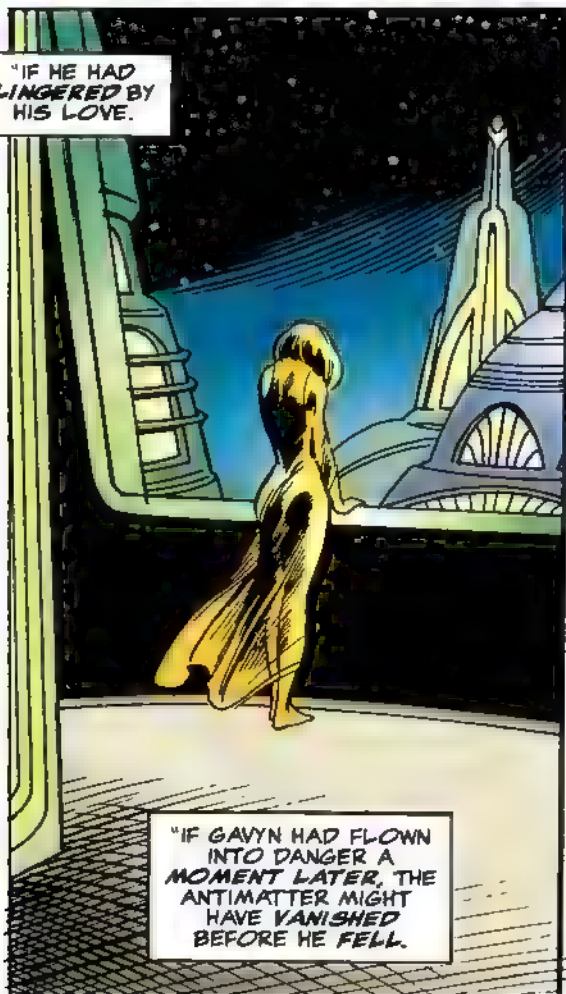
"SOME OF THEM DIED,  
TOO. ONE, A FRIENDLY FOE,  
I MISS TO THIS DAY.

"IT WAS THOSE HEROES  
WHO DEFEATED THE  
THREAT: GAVYN'S END,  
THAT INSTANT PRIOR,  
MERELY THE BITTER PLAY  
OF CHANCE.

"AND THERE LIES  
THE TRUE SADNESS  
TO THIS TALE.

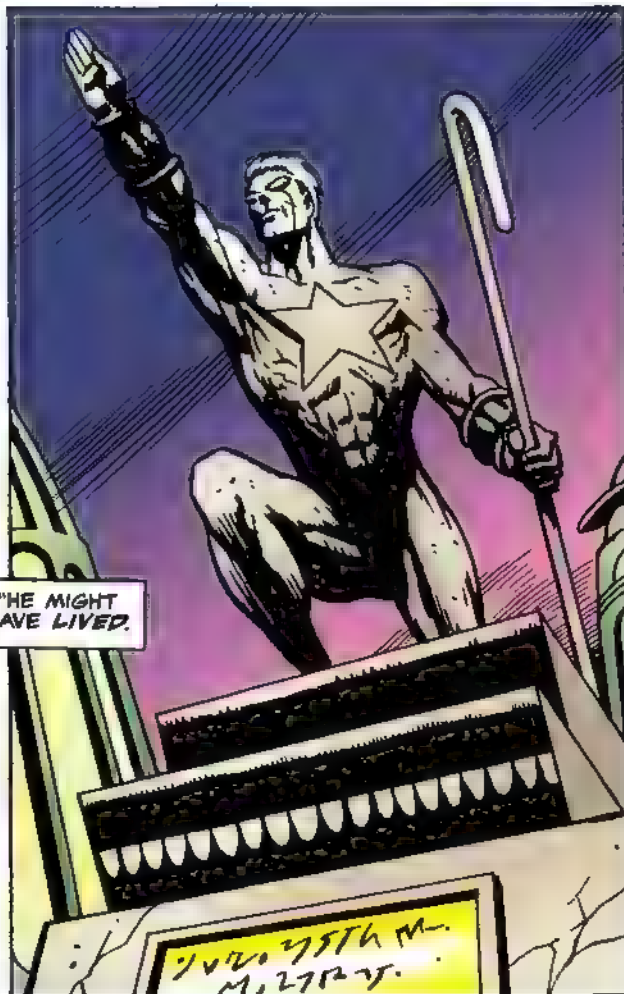


"IF HE HAD  
LINGERED BY  
HIS LOVE.

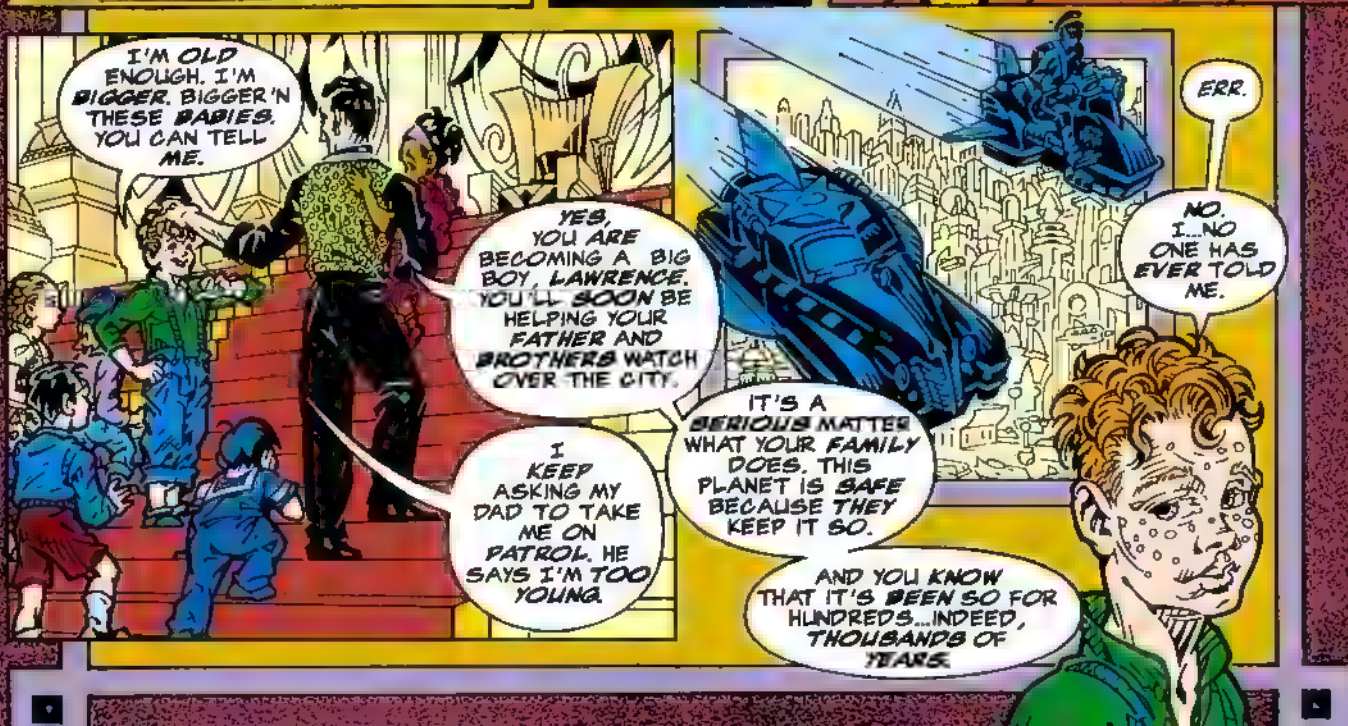
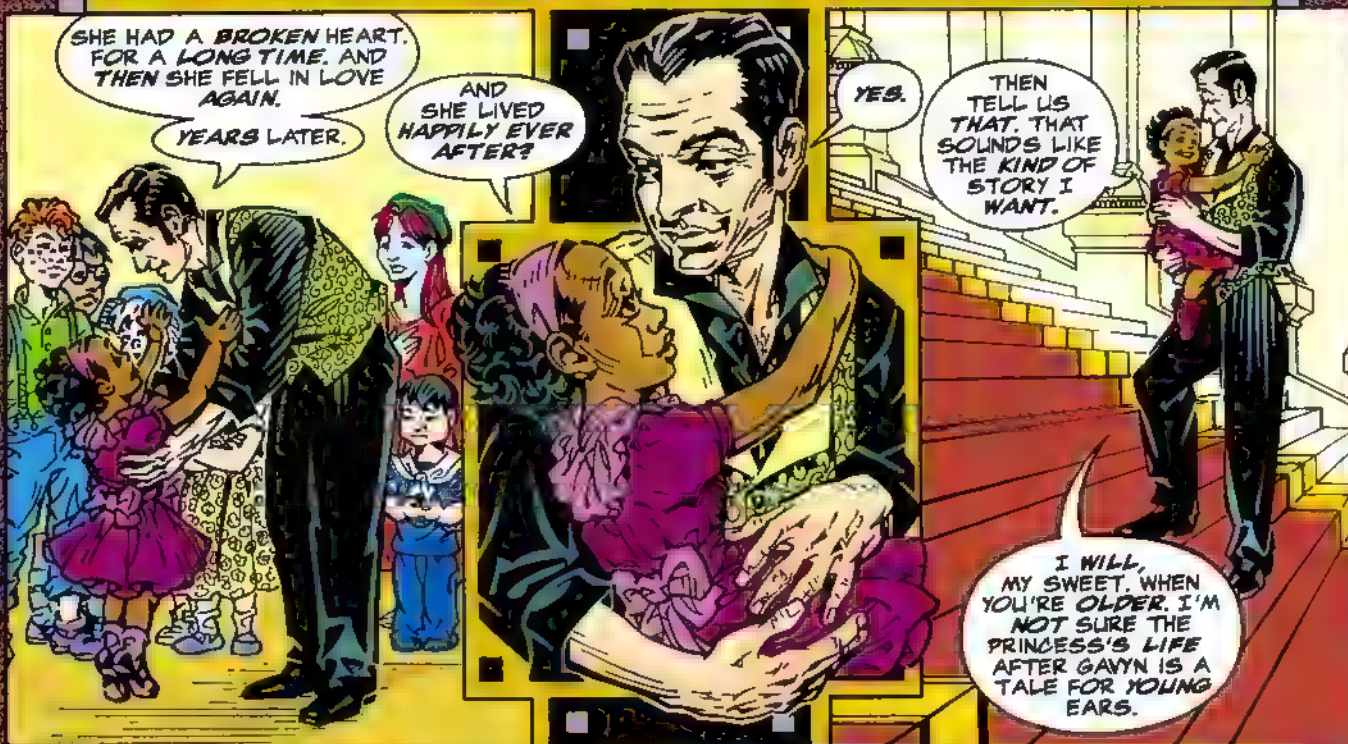
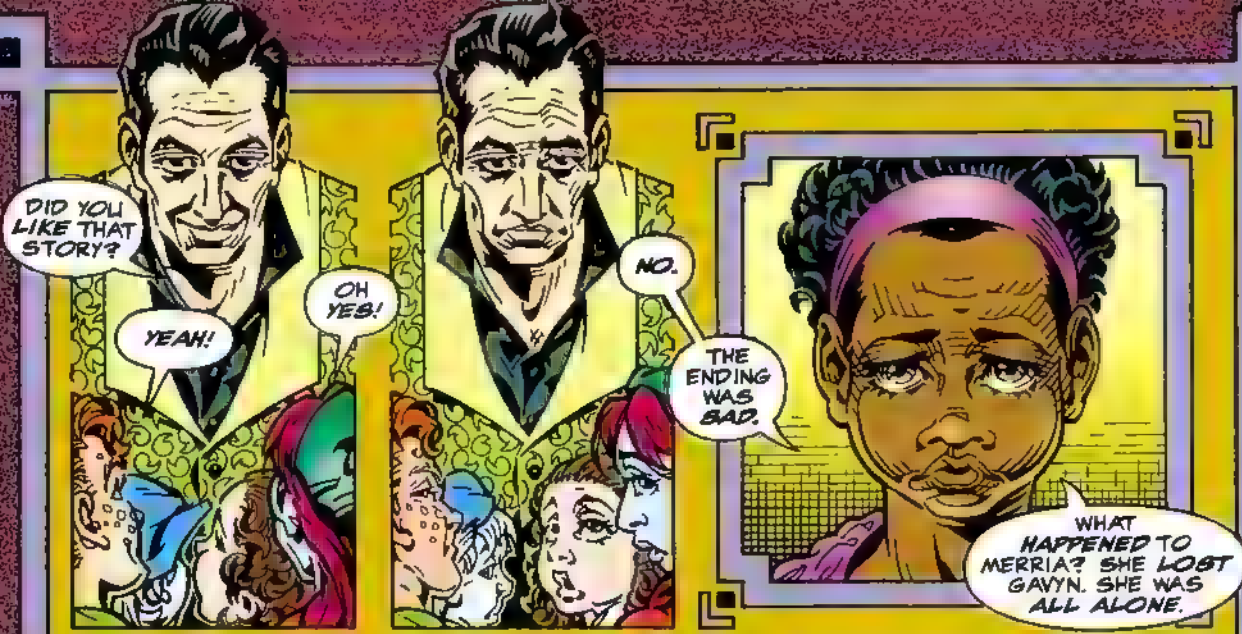


"IF GAVYN HAD FLOWN  
INTO DANGER A  
MOMENT LATER, THE  
ANTIMATTER MIGHT  
HAVE VANISHED  
BEFORE HE FELL.

"HE MIGHT  
HAVE LIVED.











HEAVENS,  
WHY NOT?

WHEN THE PLANET  
EARTH *STILL* LIVED, IN  
OPAL CITY, THE PLACE I'VE  
TOLD YOU OF TIME AND  
AGAIN, YOUR FAMILY WORKED  
FOR THE LAW. IT HAD  
ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY.  
IT ALWAYS WILL.



THEY HELPED  
JACK KNIGHT  
AND MYSELF MANY  
TIMES. ONE OF  
THEM DIED TO  
SAVE JACK, IN  
FACT.



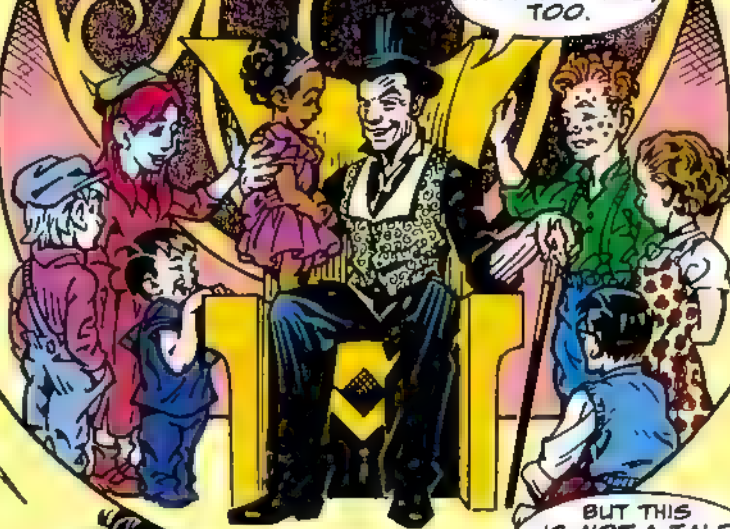
BUT  
I WANT  
TO BE A  
SPACE  
TRAVELER.

PERHAPS,  
I ONLY TELL  
WHAT WENT  
BEFORE YOU,  
LAWRENCE DARE.  
YOUR FAMILY  
WERE ONCE  
CALLED THE  
O'DARES.

AND  
ANOTHER...  
HA, HA... HE BECAME  
THE BEST FRIEND  
I SHALL EVER  
HAVE.

hmmm. THINKING OF  
THEM, AND YOU AND YOUR  
YOUTH, LAWRENCE, GIVES ME  
ANOTHER TALE I CAN TELL.  
IT'S A SCARY STORY. ONE  
OF YOU WANTED THAT,  
CORRECT?

AND  
THERE'S A  
VILLAIN IN THIS,  
TOO.



DOES  
IT HAVE A  
HAPPY  
ENDING?

SHH, YOU  
BABY. LET  
HIM TELL  
THE  
STORY.

BUT THIS  
IS NOT A TALE  
OF THE  
GENERATION OF  
O'DARES WHO  
JACK AND I KNEW  
SO WELL.

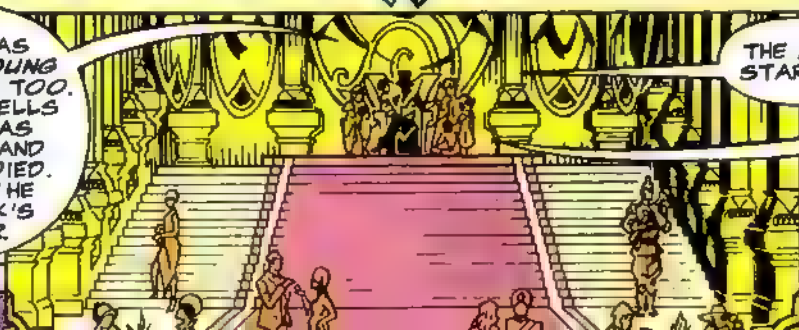
THIS  
STORY IS ALL  
ABOUT THEIR  
FATHER, WILLIAM  
O'DARE. SHALL I  
CONTINUE?

OH  
YES! IF IT'S  
SCARY!

THEIR  
FATHER WAS  
ONCE A YOUNG  
POLICEMAN, TOO.  
AND THIS TELLS  
HOW HE WAS  
FOOLISH AND  
ALMOST DIED.  
AND HOW HE  
MET JACK'S  
FATHER.

THE FIRST  
STARMAN?

THAT'S  
RIGHT...



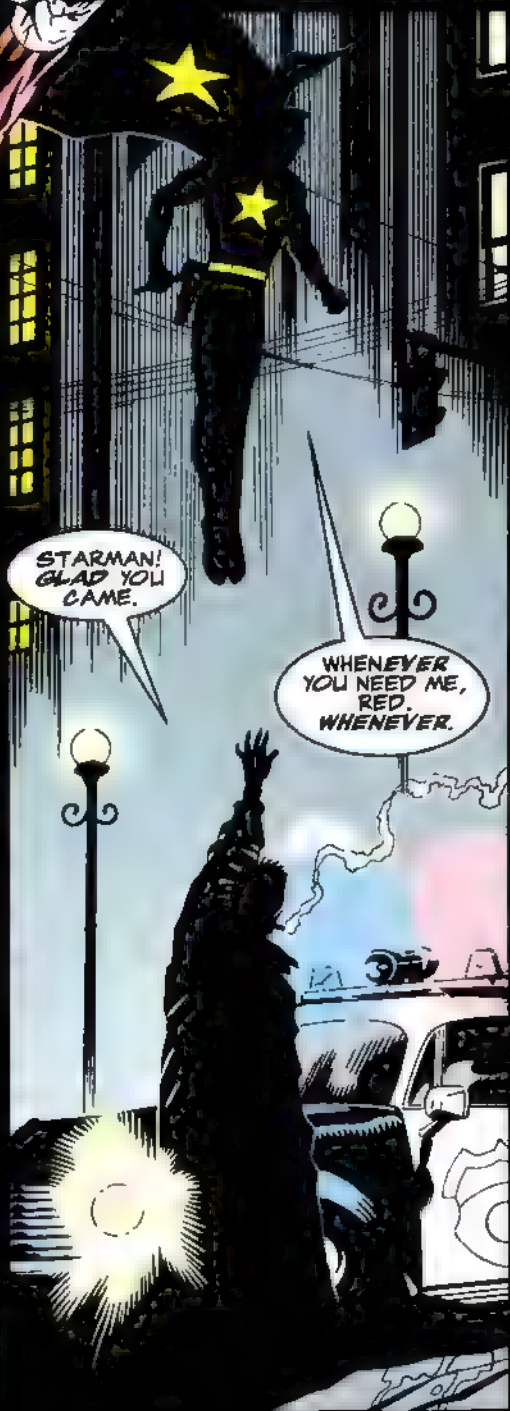


"...TED  
KNIGHT HE  
OF THE RED  
AND GREEN."



STARMAN!  
GLAD YOU  
CAME.

WHENEVER  
YOU NEED ME,  
RED,  
WHENEVER.





YOU'VE NO DOUBT HEARD OF THE PRAIRIE WITCH? HER CRIME WAVE?



HEARD OF IT? I'VE BEEN TRYING TO STOP IT.



SHE STRIKES FROM NOWHERE. HER AND THAT HOPPED-UP GANG OF GHOULS SHE HAS WORKING FOR HER.

AND THE BROOM FLYING DEVICE SHE HAS, I'M CURIOUS WHAT SCIENCE SHE USES TO POWER IT. CALL IT PROFESSIONAL JEALOUSY ON MY PART.



WELL, SHE STRUCK HERE AT THE PAWN SHOP NEAR FLANAGAN'S TAVERN. A LOT OF COPS FROM THE OLD COUNTRY GO TO FLANAGAN'S AFTER THEIR SHIFTS.

FIVE OF THEM WERE STAGGERING HOME. IT WAS AFTER HOURS. THEY SEE THE CRIME IN PROGRESS.



THE GANG KILLS THREE OF THE COPS BEFORE THEY CAN DO MUCH. THEY WING A FOURTH.

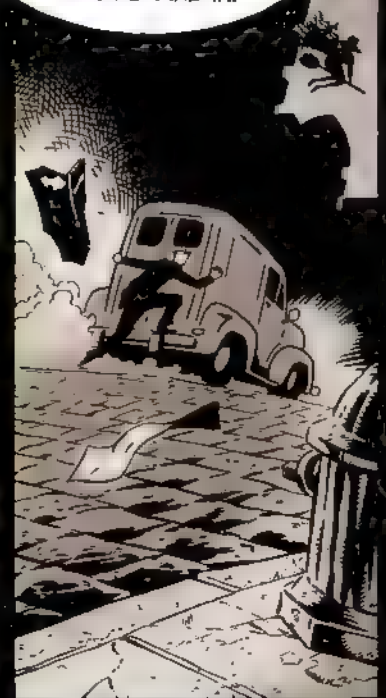
THE FIFTH, THE KILLERS DRAG WITH THEM. PATROLMAN ROACH, GOD KNOWS WHY.



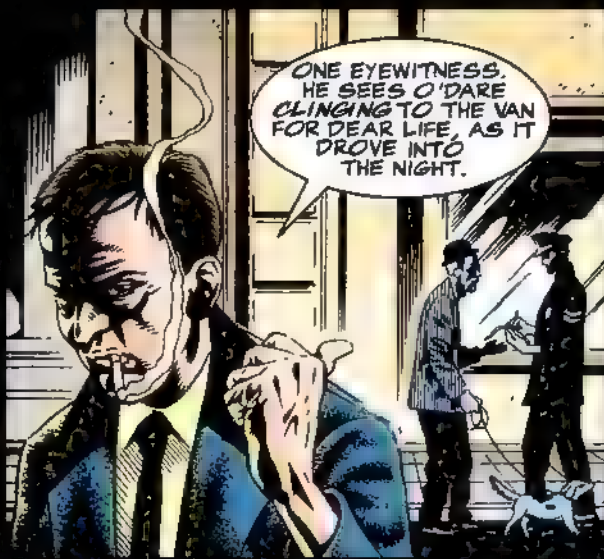
SO YOU WANT ME TO FIND ROACH?

NOT JUST ROACH. THAT FOURTH COP. THE ONE THEY WINGED.

FIREBRAND OF A KID, BILLY O'DARE. HE GETS UP WITH A BULLET IN HIS ARM AND DIVES FOR THE VAN THAT ROACH AND THE WITCH'S GOONS ARE IN.







ONE EYEWITNESS.  
HE SEES O'DARE  
CLINGING TO THE VAN  
FOR DEAR LIFE, AS IT  
DROVE INTO  
THE NIGHT.



SO WE HAVE  
TWO MISSING  
COPS.

IN THE  
HANDS OF  
MANIACS.

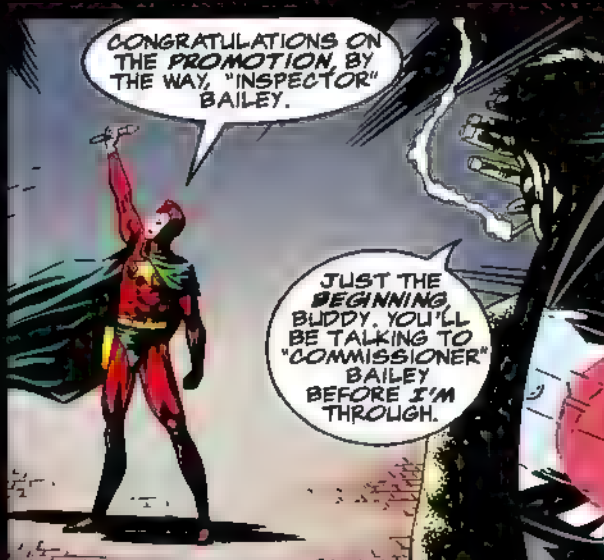


BY THE WAY,  
THAT O'DARE KID IS A  
BIG FAN OF YOURS. HE'D  
LET ANYONE WHO'D  
LISTEN KNOW HOW  
GREAT HE THOUGHT  
YOU WERE.



WELL, I CERTAINLY  
DON'T HAVE ENOUGH  
FANS THAT I CAN  
AFFORD TO  
LOSE ONE.

I'LL DO  
WHAT I CAN  
RED, BUT I HAVE  
TO SAY SO FAR  
THAT'S NOT  
BEEN MUCH.



CONGRATULATIONS ON  
THE PROMOTION BY  
THE WAY, "INSPECTOR"  
BAILEY.

JUST THE  
BEGINNING  
BUDDY. YOU'LL  
BE TALKING TO  
"COMMISSIONER"  
BAILEY  
BEFORE I'M  
THROUGH.



WISH  
UPON A STAR,  
RED, AND IT  
JUST MIGHT  
HAPPEN.





"MY AMAZEMENT NEVER *CEASED*...

"...AT THE WAY TED'S MIND WORKED.

"LIKE SWISS CLOCKWORK DELICATELY FLAWLESS. OF COURSE YOU KNOW OF THE BAD YEARS WHEN TED LOST THAT MIND AND HIS COURAGE ALONG WITH IT. WHEN GUILT TOOK AWAY THE LIGHT.

"BUT BACK THEN *BEFORE* THOSE YEARS OF DARKNESS, TED WAS BRILLIANT.

"THE PRAIRIE WITCH WENT TO COVER FOR A FEW DAYS AND SO DID TED.

"STARMAN WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

"TED BUSIED HIMSELF WITH HIS INVENTIONS.

"HE PREPARED.


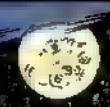
"AND HE LISTENED TO THE RADIO, THOUGH NOT TO EDGAR BERGEN OR JACE PEARSON."

--ALL CARS, ALL BARS. PRAIRIE WITCH SIGHTING. PROCEED WITH SPEED--

"TED KNEW THAT NOTHING WOULD GET THE POLICE TO THE SCENE IN TIME. THAT WAS PART OF THE WITCH'S STRATEGY. STRIKE SWIFT AND AWAY.

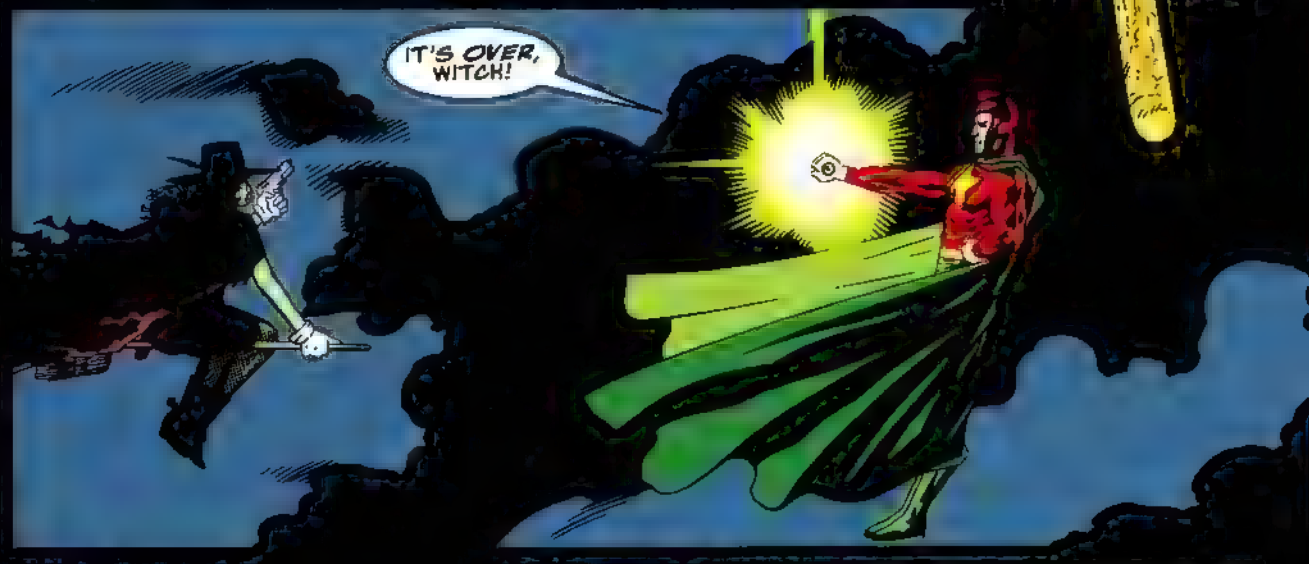
"BUT TED COULD FLY FASTER THAN ANY BLACK MARIAH.

"AND HE HAD A STRATEGY, TOO."





# Jewel







**BAM!**

FOR YOU, BRIGHT BOY!

NOT I!



NNH





ohhh

HEAD  
HURT?  
YOU'VE BEEN  
OUT A  
WHILE.

YOU  
O'DARE?

YEAH,  
BUDDY.



I'M--

I KNOW  
WHO YOU  
ARE. BEEN  
HOPING I'D  
MEET YOU  
ONE DAY.

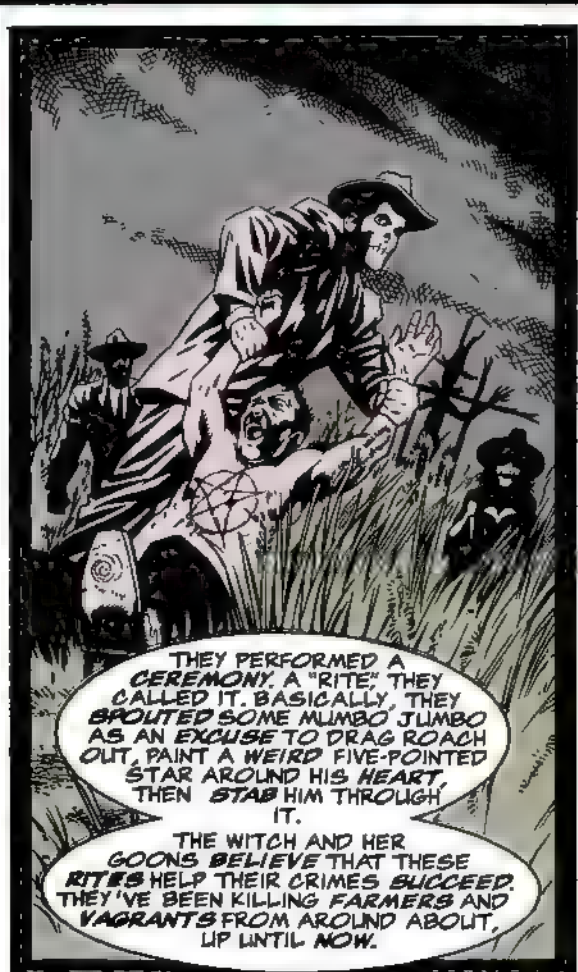
'COURSE,  
I KINDA  
HOPED THE  
CIRCUMSTANCE'D  
BE DIFFERENT.



WHERE'S  
ROACH?

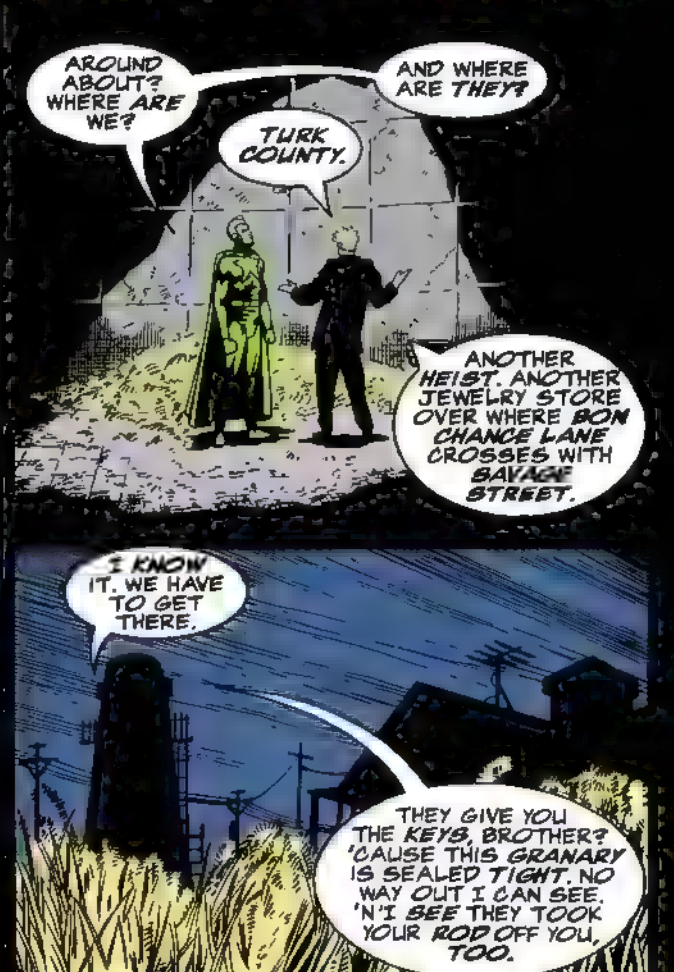
DEAD.

THEY'RE  
CRAZY THE  
WITCH AND HER GUYS.  
THEY WORSHIP  
"DARK GODS"  
WHATEVER IN HELL  
THAT MEANS.



THEY PERFORMED A  
CEREMONY. A "RITE" THEY  
CALLED IT. BASICALLY, THEY  
BROUGHT SOME MUMBO JUMBO  
AS AN EXCUSE TO DRAG ROACH  
OUT, PAINT A WEIRD FIVE-POINTED  
STAR AROUND HIS HEART,  
THEN STAB HIM THROUGH  
IT.

THE WITCH AND HER  
GOONS BELIEVE THAT THESE  
RITES HELP THEIR CRIMES SUCCEED.  
THEY'VE BEEN KILLING FARMERS AND  
VAGRANTS FROM AROUND ABOUT,  
UP UNTIL NOW.



AROUND  
ABOUT?  
WHERE ARE  
WE?

AND WHERE  
ARE THEY?

TURK  
COUNTY.

ANOTHER  
HEIST. ANOTHER  
JEWELRY STORE  
OVER WHERE BON  
CHANCE LANE  
CROSSES WITH  
SAVAGE  
STREET.

I KNOW  
IT. WE HAVE  
TO GET  
THERE.

THEY GIVE YOU  
THE KEYS, BROTHER?  
'CAUSE THIS GRANARY  
IS SEALED TIGHT. NO  
WAY OUT I CAN SEE.  
'N'I SEE THEY TOOK  
YOUR ROD OFF YOU,  
TOO.



IT WAS BROKEN WHEN I FELL.

OR SO THE WITCH THOUGHT. OR SO I WANTED HER TO THINK. ACTUALLY I CONSTRUCTED THAT ROD ESPECIALLY SO IT WOULD SHATTER.

I COULD HAVE STOPPED THEM BACK THEN. BUT I FEARED IF WE CAUGHT THEM THEY MIGHT NOT GIVE YOU UP. I'VE HEARD OF PEOPLE BEING TAKEN... SNATCHED WHO WERE BURIED ALIVE, AND KEPT THAT WAY UNTIL RANSOMS WERE PAID. I COULDN'T RISK DELAYING MY FINDING YOU.

MY CAPTURE WAS MY OWN DOING. TO BE HONEST I MISJUDGED THE DROP. I COULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT KNOCKING MYSELF SENSELESS LIKE I DID.

BUT MY INTENTION WAS ALWAYS TO BE BROUGHT HERE AND REACH YOU.

BUT WHAT IF THEY'D KILLED YOU? YOU TOOK QUITE A CHANCE.

YOU TOOK A CHANCE LEAPING FOR THE VAN. YOU DESERVED MY EFFORTS.

WITHIN MY CAPE, I CONCEALED FLAT THE CIRCUITRY TO CREATE ANOTHER GRAVITY ROD. ALL I NEED IS A CYLINDER OF SOME KIND THAT I CAN WRAP THE WIRING AROUND.

HOW ABOUT THIS? THEY TOOK MY GUN, BUT I GUESS THEY FIGURED MY NIGHT STICK WASN'T GONNA HELP ME MUCH.

IT LOOKS LIKE THE WITCH WAS WRONG AGAIN.

NOW, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.



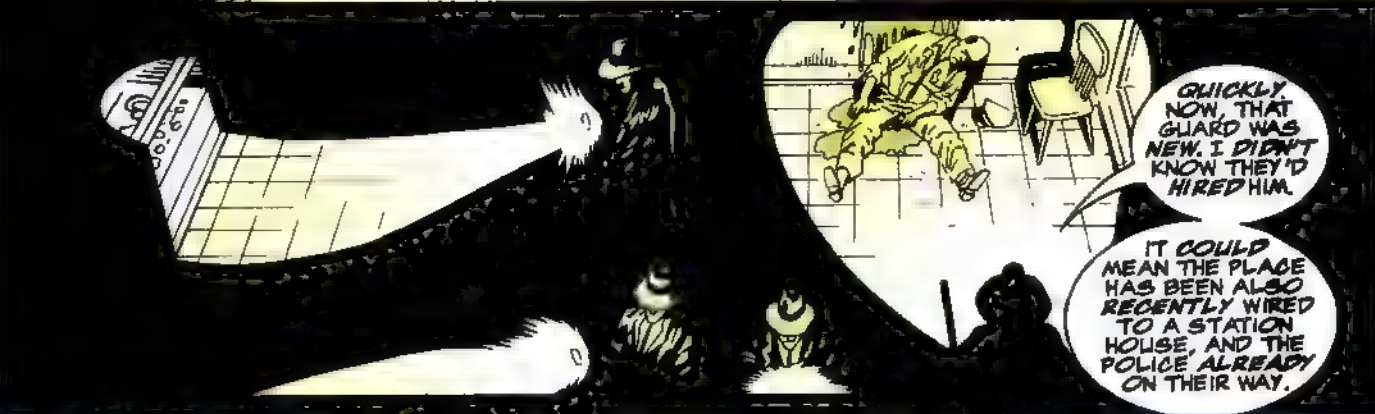


**BAM BAM**

STAY  
BACK! I'M  
WARNING  
YOU!

WARN?  
HEEHAHHEHEH.  
WARN US?

OF  
WHAT?!



QUICKLY  
NOW, THAT  
GUARD WAS  
NEW. I DIDN'T  
KNOW THEY'D  
HIRED HIM.

IT COULD  
MEAN THE PLACE  
HAS BEEN ALSO  
RECENTLY WIRED  
TO A STATION  
HOUSE, AND THE  
POLICE ALREADY  
ON THEIR WAY.



I FEAR OUR TIME  
IN OPAL CITY MAY BE  
OUTLIVED, WHEN SECURITY  
IS BEING INCREASED WE  
MAY HAVE TO MOVE  
ON S--

WITCH!  
LOOK  
A--

ALL  
NEWELS



ARE YOU  
UP TO THIS,  
BILLY?

OH,  
I'M WITH YOU,  
STARMAN.

KB  
BLAM!

ALL THE WAY!

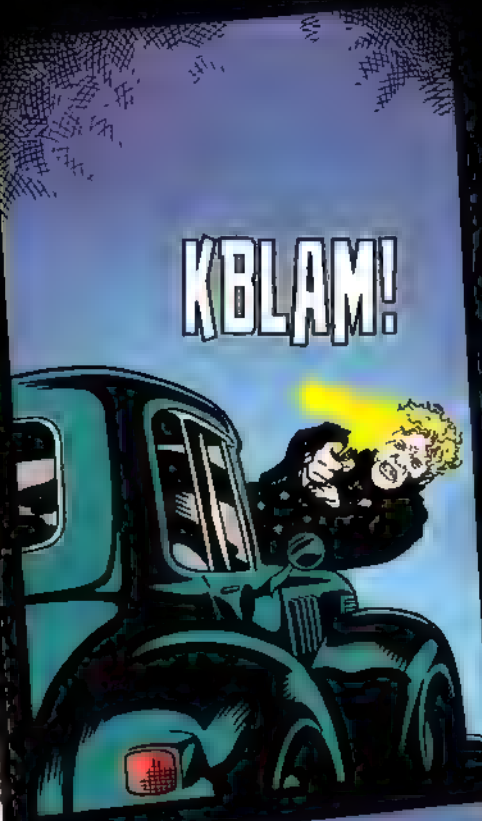






ROUND TWO, WITCH!

FOLLOW ME IF YOU DARE!



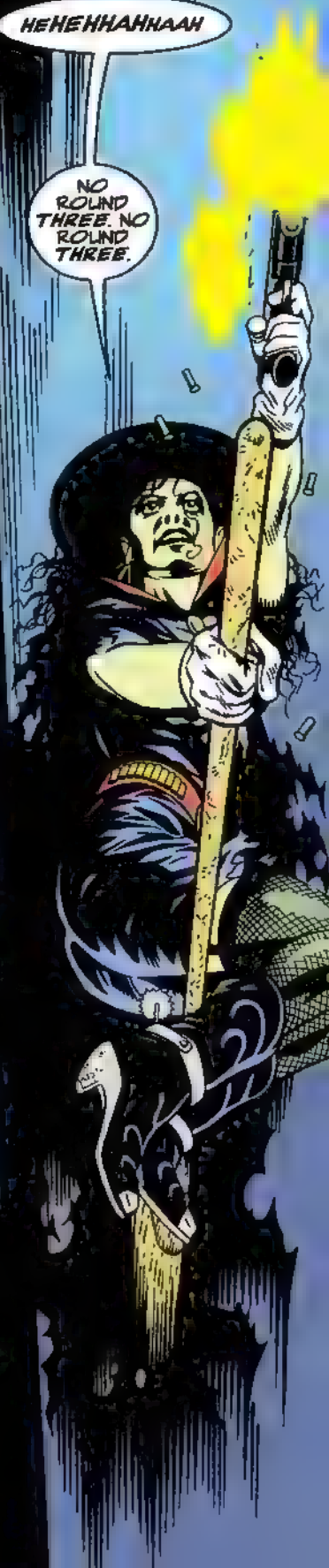
KBLAM!



ARHH

HEHEHHAHAH

NO ROUND THREE. NO ROUND THREE.





NOT IN  
A CONTEST  
BETWEEN  
SCIENCE AND  
MAGIC.

FOR  
THAT'S NO  
CONTEST AT  
ALL.

ZZZZZZZZZZ

EEEEAAHH!





O'DARE  
BEHIND  
YOU!

FIRST  
MAN I  
KILLED.

YOU  
DESERVED IT  
FOR SURE  
BUT I STILL  
FEEL...  
STRANGE.



...NICE WORK, BILLY.  
THIS WILL NOT LOOK  
AT ALL BAD ON YOUR  
RECORD, KID. NOT  
BAD AT ALL.

WOULDN'T BE  
MUCH OF A RECORD  
IF STARMAN HADN'T  
BEEN THERE TO  
SAVE ME.

EH,  
STARMAN? IF YOU  
HADN'T RISKED  
YOURSELF?

**ERR...  
WHAT?**

YOU OKAY?  
SOMETHING  
BOTHERING  
YOU?

THE WITCH'S  
BROOM. I RETRIEVED A  
PIECE OF IT. I WANTED  
TO SEE WHAT MADE  
IT FLY.

## AND?

IT  
WAS JUST A  
BROOM.





DO YOU  
ENJOY A DRINK,  
STARMAN?

UH.  
COCKTAILS.  
SOMETIMES.

I  
LOVE  
TO  
DRINK.

YOU EVER WANT  
TO GO DRINKING... YOU  
EVER NEED A DRINKING  
PAL, I'M YOUR MAN.

I'LL REMEMBER  
THE OFFER, BILLY. I MAY  
EVEN TAKE YOU UP ON IT  
ONE OF THESE DAYS.



DO THAT. DO.

AND--IF  
THINGS EVER GET  
DARK--YOU KNOW?  
IF THE BAD GUYS GET  
THE UPPER HAND AND  
THERE'S NO HOPE,  
NO CHANCE OF  
SURVIVING WHATEVER  
BAD SITUATION  
YOU'RE IN...



...AND YOU  
STILL NEED  
SOMEONE THERE  
TO WATCH YOUR  
BACK...

...I'M YOUR  
MAN FOR THAT,  
TOO. I'LL BE  
THERE FOR YOU,  
STARMAN.



WELL,  
LET'S HOPE  
MY LIGHT CAN  
KEEP THINGS  
FROM EVER  
GETTING THAT  
DARK.

YEAH.  
LET'S  
HOPE.



AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

NO, I'M SORRY, CHILD. NO.

BILLY O'DARE ENJOYED HIS DRINK A LITTLE TOO MUCH. HE WAS ALWAYS A GREAT POLICEMAN. HE NEVER LET DRINK AFFECT HIS WORK. BUT AS HE GREW OLDER IT DID AFFECT HIS HEALTH.

HE DIED.

AND TED, AS YOU ALL KNOW, HAD A LIFE THAT WAS AT BEST BITTER-SWEET.

WELL, TELL US ABOUT JACK. ANOTHER TALE OF THAT STARMAN. OR MIKAAL TOMAS. OR WILL PAYTON. OR DANNY BLAINE, THE STARMAN WHO CAME LATER.





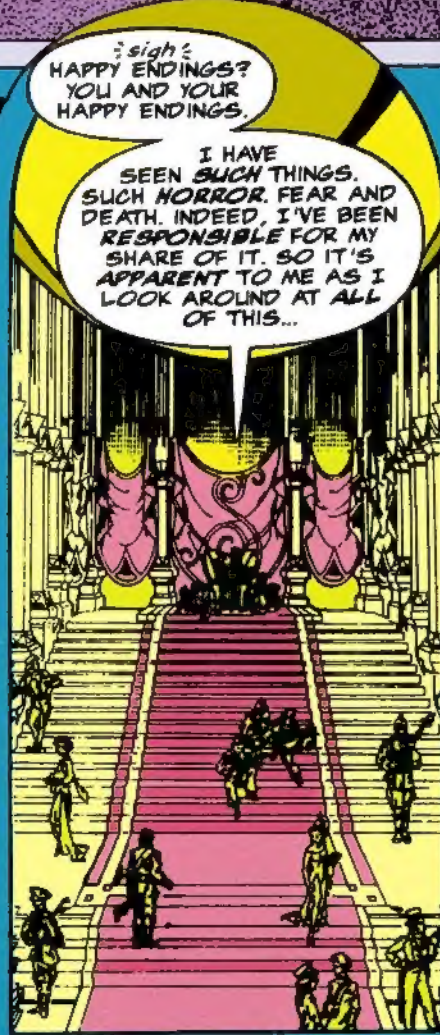






I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE AND NEITHER ARE ANY OF YOU. THERE WILL BE OTHER EVENINGS OF STORY TELLING. WORRY NOT, CHILDREN.

AND WILL THE STORIES HAVE--

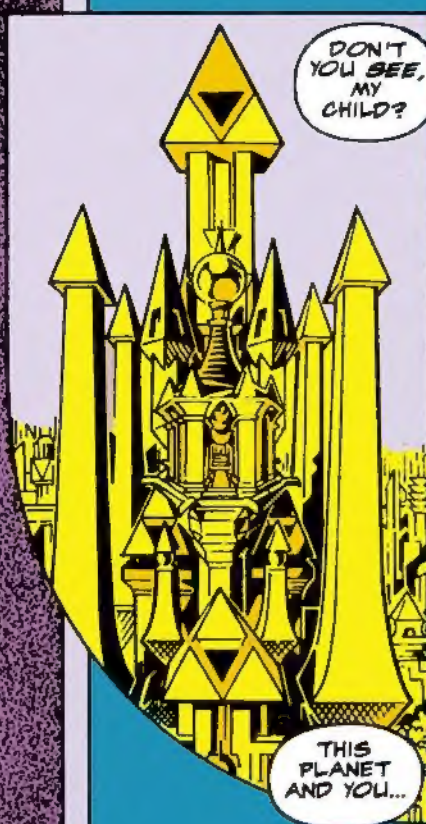


*sigh*  
HAPPY ENDINGS? YOU AND YOUR HAPPY ENDINGS.

I HAVE SEEN SUCH THINGS. SUCH HORROR. FEAR AND DEATH. INDEED, I'VE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR MY SHARE OF IT. SO IT'S APPARENT TO ME AS I LOOK AROUND AT ALL OF THIS...



...HOW YOU BEING SAFE HERE WITH ME. YOU, YOUR PARENTS, AND YOUR CHILDREN TOO, WHEN YOU HAVE THEM. THIS PLANET...MY PLANET AND ITS GLORY AND WONDER AND YOU, ITS PEOPLE, SAFE AND FREE OF FEAR.



DON'T YOU SEE, MY CHILD?

THIS PLANET AND YOU...



...THAT...



...IS THE HAPPY ENDING.



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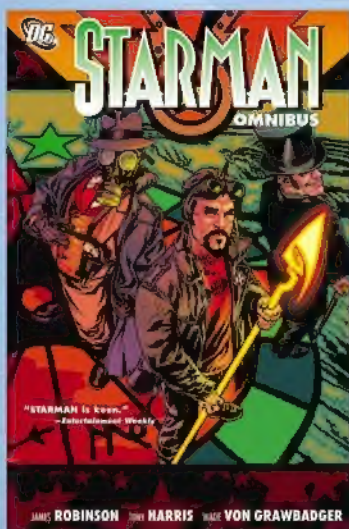
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STARMAN OMNIBUS  
VOL. 2



with  
**TONY HARRIS**

STARMAN OMNIBUS  
VOL. 3



with  
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& others

STARMAN OMNIBUS  
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